



U.S. Immigration  
and Customs  
Enforcement

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# News Release

## **ICE SEX PREDATOR CASE RESULTS IN 5-YEAR SENTENCE**

GRAND FORKS, N.D.—An undercover investigation by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) special agents here has resulted in a five-year prison sentence for a local man who used the Internet in an attempt to lure a minor girl into a sexual liaison.

Paul Robert Dickson, 47, was sentenced today in federal court for Luring a Minor Via the Internet.

Dickson had previously been found guilty following a three-day trial in September.

Dickson engaged in Internet “chat room” discussions with a person he believed was a 15-year-old girl. Actually, he was communicating with undercover ICE special agents. Dickson arranged to meet the girl at a local motel parking lot on the evening of July 12, and was arrested by ICE agents when he arrived.

“This case should send a message to would-be child predators,” said Resident Agent-in-Charge Michael Mach of the Grand Forks ICE office. “We are on the lookout for you. We will not stand by as you prey on children.”

A separate investigation by ICE agents also led to the June 23 arrest of Grand Forks resident Russell Paul Nicholls, 31. Nicholls, too, thought he was setting up a sexual liaison with a girl he’d met on the Internet, but was arrested by ICE agents when he arrived to meet her at a motel parking lot. The trial for Nicholls is scheduled for January 2005.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Jennifer Klemetsrud Puhl of the U.S. Attorney's office for the District of North Dakota is prosecuting both cases. The Grand Forks Police Department assisted ICE in the investigation.

The arrests of Dickson and Nicholls are part of Operation Predator, an ICE initiative designed to protect children worldwide from sexual predators, including those who travel overseas for sex with minors, Internet child pornographers, criminal alien sex offenders, and child sex traffickers.

Since Operation Predator was launched in July 2003, ICE agents in North Dakota have arrested 14 alleged sexual predators. Nationwide, ICE agents have arrested more than 4,500 sexual predators.

# ICE #

*U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement is the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security.*